

## Seminary Given Rare Agrippa Seal

A Herodian seal dated A.D. 44 has been given to Southwestern Seminary by a former student and professor.

Jerry Vardaman (BD 52, ThD 58) and his wife, Alfalene, gave the seal, which an independent appraiser declared "definitely unique."

"It's the only one known of its kind," said Jerome Eisenberg, an experienced dealer of antiquities.

The seal was made for King Agrippa I and found at Machaeru a Herodian fortress east of the Dead Sea, Vardaman said. The fortress is where Jewish historian Josephus said John the Baptist was beheaded.

Vardaman said the seal is made of sard, a substance which has a hardness of seven on Moe's scale, compared to a diamond which is a 10. He said the seal is hard enough to "cut the blade of a knife."

An etching on the seal depicts Agrippa receiving a scepter from the Roman emperor Caligula. Agrippa holds in his right hand

a bowl used for sacrificial offerings.

Vardaman said a well-known coin from the same period bears a similar drawing. A seal depicting a Jewish king is rare because the Jews feared breaking the second commandment, he said.

The seal could be the one used by Agrippa to issue the death warrant of the apostle James, Vardaman said. It could also be one used by an official under Agrippa given the authority to issue state documents.

Vardaman is director of the Cobb Institute of Archaeology at Mississippi State University. He was an instructor in Old Testament at Southwestern from 1955-58.

(From the Southwestern News).

## Arkansas adults build in Arizona

By Frank Wm. White

APACHE JUNCTION, Ariz. (BP) — Senior adults from Arkansas who wanted to do more than tour the West and an Arizona church that needed help canvassing its community found they could join forces and meet each other's needs.

Ten senior adults from Central Baptist Church in Magnolia, Ark., spent much of their week-long tour knocking on doors in Apache Junction, Ariz., rather than visiting the more popular tourist spots of the state.

"They wanted to perform a ministry rather than just take a tour," says Mark Overman, Central's minister of youth and activities, whose jet black hair distinguishes him from the members of the group which easily could include his grandparents.

Overman and Tommy Foster, pastor of First Baptist Church of Apache Junction, developed a plan for the senior adults to get to Arizona and, at the same time, help Foster's church. The result was a unique Sunday School revival/mission tour.

The senior adults helped the church locate younger families in the town, which traditionally has been a popular retirement community at the foot of Superstition Mountain east of Phoenix.

Church membership has reflected the older makeup of the community.

Membership and attendance fluctuate as winter residents migrate with the seasons. July's average attendance will be about half the 165 average in February, Foster explained.

The people search focused on locating young families who have moved to Apache Junction with the spread of the Phoenix metropolitan area. "We need to reach out and involve people who are new in the community. We also need to get more year-round residents involved," Foster says.

Canvassing started with a Saturday search involving more than 30 people who made 1,052 contacts. Other searches were planned for each day of the revival.

"Having the help has boosted the morale of the church," Foster notes.

White writes for the Sunday School Board.

# The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, April 23, 1987

Published Since 1877

## Dramatic revolution takes place in religious radio and television

By Dan Nicholas

MORRISTOWN, N.J. (EP) — If we've learned anything from media reports of the last decade, it is that the world's press and their audiences like to report on and hear about revolutions.

A quiet yet dramatic revolution has taken place during the last decade in religious radio and television, especially in station ownership. While mainline church attendance decreased again during the last year and the national economy floats along, the aggregate of Christian stations in America has been zooming to new heights.

The number of radio stations with a religious format, for example, has jumped from 1,069 in 1977 to 1,370 today, a net increase of 22 percent.

As impressive as that statistic sounds, radio has not begun to keep pace with growth in the number of TV stations that program religion, which is up over the last five years by a staggering 71 percent, skyrocketing from just 65 stations in 1982 to 221 stations as of January.

The number of organizations/ministries producing religious radio and television programs has increased impressively in recent years, coinciding with a new emphasis on the "traditional values" that has been sweeping the nation since the early 1980s.

While Christian radio program producers have increased in number by one third (33.1 percent) over the last decade, it has taken half that time for the same growth (32.4 percent) in the ranks of Christian TV program producers.

The numbers of Christian broadcasting professionals are increasing at a rapid pace, in part because of increased use of satellite delivery, which provides the opportunity for live, issue-oriented programming.

"The field NRB represents is changing faster than almost anyone can keep score," notes NRB Executive Director Ben Armstrong, who just completed 20 years with the association. "Just a few years ago I used to say that one new religious radio station was being started somewhere in the United States each week and one new religious TV station each month. Today those statements would not be accurate. At a time when the country's economy is floating along and the mainline Protestant churches are suffering a kind of creeping paralysis, the growth in the numbers for Christian broadcasting has taken off."

Based on figures compiled over the last 12 months by Marjorie Stevens, NRB director of resource marketing, "We can accurately say that each month on average 20 religious radio stations are being opened somewhere

in the United States and three radio ministries are being formed to feed those stations with top-quality programming," said Armstrong.

"For every 20 new radio stations, we have discovered, there are almost two new religious TV stations being started each month, and one new TV ministry to produce the video programming," he added. "We count this as a huge success story for the 'Electric Church,' and even more so when compared with the latest church figures we saw reported."

A study of the most recent year for which statistics are available indicates that the United Methodist Church lost members at a rate of 1.2

percent, the American Baptist Churches in the USA dropped by one percent, and the Presbyterian Church in the USA dropped by 1.4 percent. Evangelical churches showed only modest gains in that report. The fastest growing Protestant group, the Assemblies of God, showed growth of only 2.1 percent, while the giant Southern Baptist Convention reported membership gains of only 1.1 percent.

Reprinted by permission of NRB from "Religious Broadcasting" magazine, February 1987.

Dan Nicholas is director of news and information, National Religion Broadcasters.

## "Improve church bus safety!"

WASHINGTON (BP) — The National Transportation Safety Board has approved a letter that is to be mailed to various denominations and church groups throughout the nation in an attempt to improve church bus safety.

The letter is a result of the board's investigation since 1974 of 10 major accidents involving church-operated activity buses resulting in 42 fatalities and 259 injuries. Three of those accidents occurred during 1985 and accounted for 13 fatalities and 88

injuries.

The board's major concern is bus maintenance. Poor mechanical condition — especially brakes and tires — was a recurring factor in church bus accidents investigated by the board. The board has suggested churches establish preventive maintenance programs, focusing especially on brakes and tires.

The board also warned that a state vehicle inspection is not always a true measure of a bus's condition. Another suggestion was to have

ing bus operators to be properly licensed and qualified.

The board also offered a caution about purchasing buses. School buses manufactured after April 1977, the board reported, must meet federal standards for crashworthiness and occupant protection — including improved seatbacks and strengthened body joints.

Additional information about church bus safety may be obtained from the National Transportation Safety Board, Washington, D.C. 20594.

SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION  
LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES  
Historical Commission, SBC  
Nashville, Tennessee



# Editorials . . . by Don McGregor

## Accuracy in criticism

Some organizations serving some Southern Baptist constituents but not as structural parts of the Southern Baptist framework seem prone to cast doubt on the attitudes and designs of some agencies that are affiliated with Southern Baptists. It seems that for the most part these entities not a structural part of Southern Baptist life feel the need to use "Southern Baptist" in their names.

Such may not be the case with Southern Baptists for Life, and let it be noted immediately that there is nothing legally and probably not ethically wrong with such a practice. They can call themselves whatever they want to. This was just a statement to point out that a number of them use "Southern Baptist" in their names.

organizations affiliated structurally with the Southern Baptist Convention, however, they need to be careful to have the facts straight. To complain is one thing. To use statements that don't agree with facts in doing the complaining is something else.

When a motion was made at the 1986 Southern Baptist Convention to defend the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, one reason given was that the Joint Committee had not taken an adequate stand on abortion.

It was pointed out at the same convention, however, that abortion does not fall under the assigned matters of the Baptist Joint Committee. Abortion is, instead, assigned to the Christian Life Commission. So it makes no difference what the abortion stand of an individual on the staff of the Baptist Joint Committee might be in trying to evaluate the effectiveness of the committee. The committee doesn't deal in abortion matters and thus cannot be judged in that light.

In its February newsletter, *Southern Baptist for Life Report*, Southern Baptists for Life has been critical of the Baptist Joint Committee for its lack of a stand on abortion. The fact that it can take no stand is not mentioned.

The newsletter says: "The BJCPA is often billed in the Baptist press as a '50 year old religious liberties watchdog organization,' but its agenda has been restricted to religious liberties only for the past seven years. Prior to 1979, the BJCPA was also a 'pro-choice' abortion rights watchdog organization. In 1980, James Dunn restricted the agenda to 'separation of church and state' when he became the Executive Director."

Several inaccuracies are to be found and should be corrected. First, it is true that the Baptist Joint Committee

at one time did deal in the area of morality, which possibly could have included abortion. It was changed in 1975, however, not 1979. And it was the Southern Baptist Convention that changed it, not James Dunn. And it was not changed because the Baptist Joint Committee wanted to give up the area but to avoid confusion because the Christian Life Commission also was acting in the area of abortion and other moral questions.

And, finally, Dunn didn't become executive director for the Baptist Joint Committee until 1981. So not only did the convention and not the Baptist Joint Committee make the change, and not only was it made in 1975 and not in 1979; but Dunn was not even connected with the Baptist Joint Committee in either year.

While the present controversy is not easy to live with, those who are engaged in the controversy have every right to be involved if they want to. They should be sure of their facts, however, before using them in the battle.

And there is some amount of discrepancy in the note that Baptist press has billed the Baptist Joint Committee as a "50-year-old religious liberties watchdog organization." Baptist press usually means the entirety of the Baptist newspapers. This

"THE FIRST WORD IN THIS VERSE IS 'THE'. LET US LOOK MORE CLOSELY AT THE USE OF THIS WORD...."



paper for sure has not called the Baptist Joint Committee that in the past 12 years.

Nevertheless, this is not an anti-Southern Baptists for Life editorial. We share the concerns of this

organization. It is a call, however, for accuracy in making critical statements about other institutions. And it is an effort to provide accuracy in reports concerning an entity that is subject to judgment right now.

## Guest opinion . . .

### Why the Cooperative Program works so well

By Timothy George

Why has the Cooperative Program worked so well as a vehicle for Southern Baptist mission giving?

Historically, Baptists have stressed the competency of each individual Christian before God and the autonomy of the local congregation in the context of a wider Christian fellowship. The Cooperative Program mission support system recognizes these twin pillars of Baptist polity. The Cooperative Program has been called a "chain of love." The first, and most vital, link in this chain is the individual Baptist who brings his offering to the local church. The congregation then decides to send a portion of its receipts to the state convention, which in turn forwards a part of its receipts to the Executive Committee for Convention-wide work.

This is a completely voluntary pattern of giving. The Southern Baptist Convention has no authority over the state conventions, just as the latter cannot mandate to local congregations. These structures allow Baptists to work together (the literal meaning

of "co-operate" from the Latin *cooperatus*) without the danger of coercion from a denominational hierarchy.

All Southern Baptists are not alike. But we all agree that Jesus is Lord, that the Bible is the Word of God, and that every person in the world should have the opportunity to hear the good news of salvation through faith in Christ.

The Cooperative Program enables us to express our common mission concerns through a unified giving plan. This plan works through a loose, non-federated cooperative arrangement involving local churches, associations, state conventions, SBC committees, agencies, and boards.

Southern Baptists have seen the weakness of the old "society plan" of mission giving. Support for Baptist work was limited and uncertain. Each board or agency had to make its own separate appeal. Offerings were irregular and pledges of support frequently unfulfilled. The Cooperative Program transcended these dif-

ficulties by providing an integrated focus for mission support. The various agencies of the convention make a unified appeal; the funds are collected centrally and distributed equitably according to the wishes of the convention; financial stability permits long-range planning and new advances in sharing the good news of Christ through many different mission channels.

Timothy George is associate professor of church history at Southern Seminary.

### Oklahoma adjusts CP gifts

OKLAHOMA CITY (BP) — Oklahoma Baptists' board of directors voted unanimously March 17 to temporarily adjust the division of Cooperative Program gifts between state and national ministries.

The change, recommended after months of study by a special committee, increases the amount utilized for

We are in the midst of National Secretaries' Week, and the Baptist Record surely would like to pay tribute to the five splendid ladies who serve Mississippi Baptists in that capacity through their work at this newspaper.

The fact of the matter is, there are no true secretaries at the Baptist Record. All five serve partly in secretarial positions; but all five also serve in other capacities as well.

Evelyn Keyes is advertising coordinator. Florence Larrimore is editorial assistant. Renee Walley is circulation assistant. Betty Anne Bailey handles financial records. Irene Martin is computer operator. None of those titles adequately describes the scope of the work that these ladies accomplish. They form a dedicated group of people.

Oklahoma missions to 56 percent and reduces the amount forwarded to the Southern Baptist Convention to 44 percent. It is effective as of Jan. 1, 1987.

Oklahoma has been one of only three state conventions to divide Cooperative Program gifts evenly, 50-50, between state and national conventions. Florida and Georgia are the others.

Every one of these jobs is vital to the operation of the Baptist Record. Perhaps the most interesting are those directly involved in circulation, for there is a story behind every name. For instance, one day a note came in from a church to drop one of our subscribers. The simple explanation was, "She has gone to be with Jesus."

Nothing wrong with that, of course. Another such instance, however, was quite different. A subscriber called to find out why she was not getting the paper. She was told that if she would hold the phone, the answer would be found. In a moment the answer came, "I don't know how to tell you this, Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_, but our records show that you are deceased." The report of her death was greatly exaggerated, of course; and she was added back to the list. Somehow someone had reported that she had died.

I am sure that Associate Editor Tim Nicholas and Assistant Editor Anne McWilliams would want to join me in paying tribute to these five fine ladies who mean so much to the spirit and the production of the Baptist Record.

Friendship is one of the sweetest joys of life. Many might have failed beneath the bitterness of their trial had they not found a friend. (Charles Spurgeon)

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# The Baptist Record

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## New FMB policy

# Appointees now allowed from non-SBC seminaries

By Bob Stanley

LEXINGTON, Ky. (BP) — The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board voted April 8 to drop its long-standing requirement that career missionary candidates must attend one of the six Southern Baptist theological seminaries for at least one year.

The new missionary qualifications policy, which will be reviewed every six months for the next two years, will open the door to qualified candidates from Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary in Memphis, Tenn., and other accredited seminaries without further attendance at a Southern Baptist seminary.

Board President R. Keith Parks said the new policy "grew out of a desire on the part of growing numbers of board trustees" to appoint graduates from Mid-America without requiring this additional year of study. He said the board's staff, while dealing with the question, decided the "whole qualification matter" needed review.

"The crux of the matter is the appropriate Southern Baptist identity of the missionaries representing the Southern Baptist Convention," Parks emphasized. He said the new re-

quirements maintain "an insistence on Southern Baptist identity by focusing more on the local church and less on seminary education" as a test of this identity.

A year ago the board's committee on human resources, after considerable discussion, reaffirmed the policy requiring one year's study for 26 semester hours at an SBC seminary. But the issue of whether Mid-America graduates should be required to take this extra study has continued to be debated in the denomination during the past year. In February, members of the committee asked that the Mid-America matter be brought up again for consideration.

Proponents of Mid-America have said it was unfair to require their graduates to study an additional year at an SBC seminary. They said the seminary's faculty and trustees, and 97 percent of its students, are active members of Southern Baptist churches. They also pointed to the missions and evangelistic emphases of the seminary, as well as its regional accreditation.

A number of Mid-America graduates have been appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in recent years after the additional year's study at an

SBC seminary.

The board has maintained that the year's attendance at an official SBC seminary supported by the denomination and governed by SBC-appointed trustees was needed to assure identification with Southern Baptists. It said its guidelines, which were in effect before Mid-America was founded in 1972, originally were adopted to deal with candidates from such theological schools as Princeton, Yale, Fuller, Vanderbilt, and Dallas Theological Seminary.

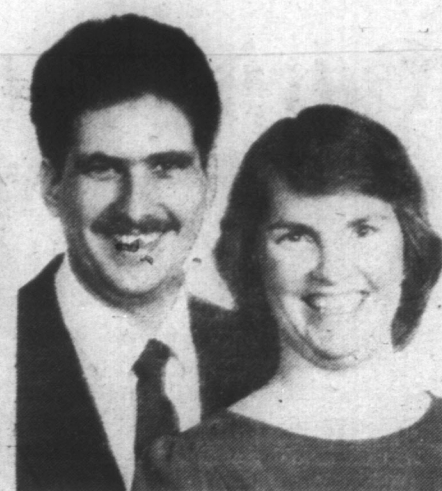
In changing its policies, the board pointed to the "demanding and limitless" opportunities of world evangelization. "Our human resources must be mobilized as effectively as possible, without compromising quality," said an introduction to the new qualifications document.

At the same time, the statement added, "We affirm our own denominational educational institutions and encourage any and all Southern Baptists to utilize these educating, equipping centers."

Board staff who work with people considering a call to missions indicated they will continue to encourage attendance at one of the SBC (Continued on page 4)



Vaughns



Harrisons



Simmons



Hamiltons



Grears



Singletarys

## Foreign Mission Board sends state couples

RICHMOND, Va. — Six couples with Mississippi connections were among 49 people named missionaries by the Foreign Mission Board April 7 at Rupp Arena, Lexington, Ky.

Simmons

Glenn and Sherry Simmons will live in South Africa, where he will teach at a seminary and they will be involved in several outreach ministries.

He is pastor of First Baptist Church, Homer, La. Born and reared in Franklinton, La., Simmons is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Dudley W. Simmons of that city.

He received the bachelor of science degree from William Carey College, Hattiesburg, and the master of divinity and doctor of theology degrees from New Orleans Seminary.

He has been minister of music and youth at First Church, Barling, Ark., and pastor of Ebenezer Church, Bassfield, Miss., and Morgan City (Miss.) Church.

Born in Jefferson, Texas, Mrs. Simmons, the former Sherry Smith, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Smith of Granbury, Tex.

She achieved registered nurse standing by examination in Louisiana and licensed psychiatric nurse technician

standing by examination in Arkansas.

She has been a nurse in Greenwood, Miss. More recently she has been a staff nurse at Homer (La.) Memorial Hospital.

The Simmons have four children: Jennifer Marie, born in 1975; twins Jason Wright and Glenna Dawn, 1979; and Sandra Celeste, 1983.

Harrison

Phoebe and Frank Harrison will live in Honduras, where he will work with youth and they will be involved in several outreach ministries.

He is associate pastor and minister of youth at Bay Street Baptist Church, Eustis, Fla.

Born and reared in Jesup, Ga., Harrison is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Harrison of that town.

He received the bachelor of arts degree from Mercer University, Macon, Ga., and the master of divinity degree from New Orleans Seminary.

He has been a Southern Baptist Home Mission Board summer missionary in Michigan and summer youth director at Midway Church, Barnesville, Ga.

Born in Jackson, Miss., Mrs. Har-

(Continued on page 5)

## Arson suspect arrested in Pearl Church case

By Tim Nicholas

An arrest has been made in the arson fire of the former Sunshine Church, Pearl, now known as Park Place Baptist Church, according to Pearl Fire Chief Robert Trigg.

Trigg said that on April 10, a juvenile was arrested on information from an informant.

The fire chief said that there appeared to be no connection whatsoever to a church split last fall. He said the juvenile had apparently visited the church, but was not a regular member.

Park Place pastor Bobby Williamson said that the suspect had only visited the church once.

"It was really an answer to prayer," said Williamson, "This was the direction I had taken all along that there

wasn't a connection to any of the former members of the church."

Williamson said the church, which changed its name after the fire but had been actively considering such for months, had been having capacity crowds in its fellowship hall services since the March 29 fire. It has averaged 200 in Sunday School "which is 50 more per week since before the fire," he said.

The fire destroyed the six year old sanctuary with damages up to \$600,000. Williamson said the church had a half million dollars in insurance.

He added that there had been no pranks at the church since the fire. Earlier, cars had been scratched and sugar poured in gas tanks.

## Lottie Moon gifts' likely total will be \$70 million

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — When totaled at the end of May, the 1986 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Southern Baptist foreign missions probably will be about \$70.1 million.

That total, if accurate, will top the 1985 offering by about \$3.3 million. But it will fall almost \$4.9 million short of the 1986 goal of \$75 million.

The normally reliable forecast comes from the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board here, which depends upon the annual offering for nearly half of its total budget. The money supports the work of more than 3,800 missionaries in 110 countries.

Actual receipts at the Foreign Mission Board by April 6 totaled about \$64.2 million, but the board will continue to receive contributions to the 1986 offering through May 31.

The predicted shortfall would be the biggest yet for the Lottie Moon offer-

(Continued on page 10)



# Davis elected vice president, dean at Midwestern Seminary

By Don McGregor

M. Vernon Davis, associate professor of Christian Theology at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Mo., last week was elected by the seminary trustees as vice president for academic affairs and dean of the faculty for the seminary.

He succeeds N. Larry Baker, who, in January, was named as the new executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission.

Davis took up his duties immediately upon his election. He had been nominated for the post by seminary president Milton Ferguson. The vote to elect him was 21 to 4.

J. Truett Gannon, pastor of Smoke Rise Baptist Church, Stone Mountain, Ga., was named chairman of the Board of Trustees for Midwestern, succeeding Kermit D. McGregor of Clinton, Miss., public relations director for Mississippi Baptist Children's Village.

The trustees elected Graydon K. Kitchens, of Minden, La., a district judge, as their first vice chairman and Kerry Powell of Little Rock, Ark., as the second vice chairman. Powell is associate pastor of First Baptist Church, Little Rock.

Named as secretary-treasurer was Bob Perry of Kansas City. Perry is director of missions for Clay-Platte Association.

In other actions, the trustees approved the establishment of a fund for supporting religious liberty studies at the seminary and approved the announced intent on the part of the seminary to establish a master's degree program in the field of church music.

The religious liberty studies fund will be known as the G. Hugh Wamble Fund for Religious Liberty Studies. A \$23,000 residue from another church-state separation fund

was made available to the seminary, and it will be used to initiate the Wamble fund. It was pointed out that no other Southern Baptist seminary has such studies. Wamble is professor of church history at Midwestern Seminary.

Trustees heard plans for a regional conference on evangelism Oct. 14 to 16 on the campus. The purpose of the conference would be "to involve students, pastors, laypersons, and denominational workers in a major focus on the needs and resources for evangelism today." Evangelism directors from nine states and Robert Hamblin, vice president for evangelism for the Home Mission Board, were invited to the campus in February for planning. There will be six seminars and 10 workshops. Hamblin will be one of the speakers for the plenary sessions.

The trustees also heard the details of a cooperative program between the seminary and the Foreign Mission Board that will allow seminary professors to visit mission fields on a short-term basis. Funding for the project was initiated by V. Lavell Seats, professor of missions at the seminary. The fund was named in honor of Seats.

Also, Mrs. Jo Ann Butler of Kansas City was named visiting professor of music; Dwight A. Honeycutt, missionary to Colombia, was named visiting professor of missions during the 1987-88 academic year; and Robert Canoy, a native of Mississippi, was named visiting professor in New Testament for 1987-88 and 1988-89. Mrs. Butler will be employed for a contract period of Feb. 1, 1987 to July 31, 1989.

An increase in the matriculation fee from \$325 to \$350 per student per semester was adopted. Other fees were increased accordingly.

The budget adopted for 1987-88 projects an income of \$3,346,730 and expenses of \$3,245,163. President Ferguson announced that the seminary is continuing to explore the possibilities of an endowed professorship in evangelism.

A lengthy discussion preceded the election of Davis as vice president for academic affairs. Most of the discussion revolved around questions concerning the lack of time available to consider the election following receipt of material on Davis and his involvement earlier on the board of directors of SBC Today, an independent, moderate-oriented newspaper. He resigned his position on the board of the publication in 1986. Trustees received material on Davis the week before the meeting.

Jack Amis, trustee from Kentucky, declared that he felt that trustees should have informational material on major board decisions a month in advance. Perry countered that in this case the nominee was already on the faculty and was simply being considered for promotion on recommendation by the president.

Sid Peterson of California noted that the vice president would be responsible for proposing other faculty additions, and Doyle Smith of Kansas asked Davis if he would be impartial in his nominations. Davis answered in the affirmative.

Jerry Davenport of Texas said he wished there could be more time and proposed a substitute motion that would have continued Davis as acting vice president until the next meeting in October, when the vote would be taken. The substitute motion failed to get a majority vote.

Following the vote to elect Davis, Ferguson said that when people have full opportunity to discuss matters, the resolution is positive.



Kermit D. McGregor, immediate past chairman of MWBTB board of trustees, presides over the annual trustee meeting last week. He served an unprecedented three years as chairman of the trustees. McGregor is public relations director for the Mississippi Baptist Children's Village.

ACTS  
SATELLITE NETWORK, INC.

REVISED

SCHEDULE

Effective

January 11,

1987

CST	SUN.	MON.	TUES.	WED.	THUR.	FRI.	SAT.
5:30	Plant Groom David Wade	Sargent Preston Lesse	Sargent Preston Lesse	Sargent Preston Lesse	Sargent Preston Lesse	Sargent Preston Lesse	Lone Ranger Cartoon Coco Kid
6:30	Changed Lives One in the Spirit	Vegetable Soup Cope	Villa Alegre Cope	Sunshine Factory Cope	Carrasco Wendas Cope	Infinity Factory Cope	Moody Science Series Family Foundations
7:30	Catch the Spirit This is the Life	Sunshine Factory	Sunshine Factory	Sunshine Factory	Sunshine Factory	Sunshine Factory	Sunday School Lesson Davey and Goliath
8:30	Methodist Hour	Prime Timers Country Crossroads	Profiles Great Churches	Word of Life in Concert	Human Dimension Great Churches	At Home With the Bible Invitation to Life	Sunshine Factory Guggenheim - Hotel
9:30	In Touch	Que Pasa	Bill Cosby	Shari Lewis	Mickey Rooney	Rebop	Skippy the Kangaroo Lone Ranger Cartoon
10:30	Joy of Music Gloria	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Coco Kid Our World
11:30	ACTS Presby-terian Hour	Sunshine Factory Sargent Preston	Sunshine Factory Sargent Preston	Sunshine Factory Sargent Preston	Sunshine Factory Sargent Preston	Sunshine Factory Sargent Preston	In Concert
12:30	The Baptist Hour	Lesse	Lesse	Lesse	Lesse	Lesse	Country Crossroads
1:30	Christopher Closeup: The Sunday Selections	Sunshine Factory Psychiatry and You	Sunshine Factory Psychiatry and You	Sunshine Factory Psychiatry and You	Sunshine Factory Psychiatry and You	Sunshine Factory Psychiatry and You	Jim Houston Outdoors Super Handyman
2:30		Cope Daily	Cope Daily	Cope Daily	Cope Daily	Cope Daily	Plant Groom David Wade
3:30	Great Churches	Encore Theatre	Encore Theatre	Encore Theatre	Encore Theatre	Encore Theatre	Davey and Goliath Sunshine Factory
4:30	Joy of Music Gloria	Sargent Preston	Sargent Preston	Sargent Preston	Sargent Preston	Sargent Preston	Guggenheim Hotel Country Crossroads
5:30	ACTS Presby-terian Hour	Lesse	Lesse	Lesse	Lesse	Lesse	Jim Houston Outdoors
6:30	This is the Life Methodist Hour	Bill Cosby	Shari Lewis	Mickey Rooney	Davey and Goliath	Lone Ranger Cartoon	Skippy the Kangaroo Lone Ranger Cartoon
7:30	Changed Lives	Profiles	Word of Life	Music Is	First Things First	Prime Timers	Coco Kid
8:30	One in the Spirit Catch the Spirit	Great Churches	In Concert	Great Churches	Invitation to Life	Country Crossroads	In Concert
9:30	Rebop Hour (Evening Worship)	Cope	Cope	Cope	Cope	Cope	Moody Science Series Family Foundations
10:30	Christopher Closeup: Sunday Selections	Encore Theatre	Encore Theatre	Encore Theatre	Encore Theatre	Encore Theatre	Sunday School Lesson This is the Life
11:30		Bill Cosby	Shari Lewis	Mickey Rooney	Rebop	Que Pasa	Christopher Closeup: Weekend Hospital
12:30	Gloria	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Our World
1:30	ACTS Presby-terian Hour	Profiles	Word of Life in Concert	Music Is	First Things First	Prime Timers	In Concert
2:30	This is the Life Methodist Hour	Great Churches	Great Churches	Great Churches	Invitation to Life	Country Crossroads	Super Handyman
3:30	Rebop Hour	Cope	Cope	Cope	Cope	Cope	Plant Groom David Wade
4:30	The Baptist Hour	Encore Theatre	Encore Theatre	Encore Theatre	Encore Theatre	Encore Theatre	Moody Science Series Family Foundations
5:30	Christopher Closeup: Super Handyman						Sunday School Lesson Skippy the Kangaroo

## AVAILABLE IN THESE AREAS

Cleveland Warner Amex Cable Ch 10  
Greenville McCaw Cable Ch 15  
Hollandale Broadband Cable Ch 17  
Jackson Capitol Cable Ch 14  
Meridian Comcast Cable Ch 11  
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## From non-SBC seminaries

(Continued from page 3)  
institutions. However, Parks said the guidelines acknowledge that with the geographic spread of Southern Baptists, "some find it difficult to attend an SBC seminary."

In defining "SBC identity," the qualifications continue to require a "record of meaningful membership and participation in a Southern Baptist church." But to this, they add "commitment to and identification with Southern Baptists through fellowship, prayer support, giving, cooperation, and service."

Other changes in the general requirements state that candidates must give evidence of "a sound biblical faith" and "conviction of truth as held by Southern Baptists." The latter phrase is lifted almost directly from wording of Article IX of the SBC Constitution on missionaries' qualifications.

In discussion April 7 by the board's mission management and personnel committee, both trustees and staff

noted the Baptist Faith and Message statement will continue to be the test of missionaries' doctrinal beliefs.

This statement, adopted by the SBC in 1963 and underscored in theological debates in more recent years, has been the standard applied in screening of missionary candidates.

Under the new policy, the board may consider qualified candidates from any seminary whose accreditation is "commensurate with that of our Southern Baptist theological institutions."

This definition of accreditation would permit the board, as it moves forward with its global evangelization and internationalization thrust, to consider applicants trained at an overseas seminary if they could meet other appointment requirements.

Harlan E. Spurgeon, vice president for mission management and personnel, noted the new requirements place greater responsibility upon overseas missions — the organizations of Southern Baptist missionaries on the

field — to write job descriptions that define the exact educational and other qualifications needed to fill each particular missionary need.

Spurgeon said the guidelines also allow more flexibility. Not all church planting assignments may require a seminary graduate, he explained.

For some church starting needs, the board in recent years has been willing to consider a person with two years' seminary study plus five or more years' pastoral experience in Southern Baptist churches.

Parks' statement on the new policy concluded: "Recognizing our responsibility under God and to Southern Baptists, we must never allow any single issue to become more important than the cause of reaching the whole world. We must not allow anyone or anything to polarize or fragment us. We believe that (this policy) is a means of responding to a concern in a way that continues to focus on our larger concern of world mission."

Bob Stanley writes for the FMB.



# Foreign Mission Board sends Doctors, dentists to meet couples with Mississippi ties

(Continued from page 3)

risson, the former Phoebe Kelley, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Kelley of Metairie, La.

She received the bachelor of science in nursing degree from Louisiana State University Medical Center, New Orleans. She also attended the University of New Orleans and New Orleans seminary. She achieved registered nurse standing by examination in Louisiana.

She has been a staff nurse and an assistant head nurse at a hospital in New Orleans, and a staff nurse in the cardiac intensive care unit of a hospital in Leesburg, Fla. She is assistant director of nursing at Leesburg Healthcare Center.

## Singletary

Dennis and Linda Singletary will live in the Philippines, where he will start and develop churches and they will be involved in several outreach ministries. He is pastor of Devco Baptist Church, Geneva, Ala.

Born in Holmes County, Fla., Singletary is the son of Mrs. Johnnie Bond of Dothan, Ala., and the late James H. Singletary, formerly of Slocumb, Ala.

He received the bachelor of science degree from Mobile College; and the master of divinity degree from New Orleans Seminary. He has been pastor of Pleasant Valley Church, Meadville, Miss.

Born in Midland City, Ala., Mrs. Singletary, the former Linda Waters, is the daughter of Andrew Waters of

Slocumb, and Mrs. Jeanetta Aplin of Dothan.

She attended Enterprise State Junior College. She has been a church secretary in Geneva.

The Singletarys have three children: James Derrick, born in 1977; Denisha Lynn, 1981; and Daniel Keith, 1984.

## Vaughn

John and Kathy Vaughn will live in South Brazil, where he will start and develop churches and they will be involved in several outreach ministries. He is pastor of Arkadelphia Baptist Church, Bailey, Miss.

Born in DeKalb, Miss., Vaughn is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Willard Vaughn of Scooba.

He received the associate of arts degree from East Mississippi Junior College, Scooba; the bachelor of science degree from Mississippi State University; and the master of divinity degree from New Orleans Seminary.

He has been pastor of Pleasant Hill Church, New Hebron.

Born in Andrews, Texas, Mrs. Vaughn, the former Kathy Johnson, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Johnson of Oak Grove, La. She also lived in Oak Grove and Scooba. She considers Oak Grove her hometown and Scooba Baptist Church her home church.

She received the bachelor of science degree from Mississippi State University. She also attended East Mississippi Junior College. She has been an elementary teacher in Meridian, Miss.

The Vaughns have two children: Michelle Lee, born in 1977; and John Mark, 1979.

## Greear

Asa and Lydia Greear will live in Benin, where he will start and develop churches and they will be involved in several outreach ministries.

He is pastor of North Benson Baptist Church, Frankfort, Ky., and a statistician for the state of Kentucky. She attends Kentucky State University, Frankfort.

Born in Campton, Ky., Greear is the son of Dewey Greear of Coal Grove, Ohio, and the late Josephine Rose, formerly of Campton.

He received the bachelor of science degree from Morehead (Ky.) State University; and the master of divinity degree from New Orleans Seminary.

He has been an inventory clerk for a company in New Orleans, and pastor of Central Baptist Church, Benton, Miss.

Born in Ashland, Mrs. Greear, the former Lydia Patton, is the daughter of the Mr. and Mrs. Henry S. Patton Jr. of Booneville, Ky. Her father is pastor of Lerose (Ky.) Baptist Church.

She attended Ashland Community College and New Orleans Seminary.

More recently she has been a part-time beauty consultant with Mary Kay Cosmetics in New Orleans, Benton, and Frankfort.

The Greears have three children: Thaddeus Bartholomew, born in 1975; Jeremiah Patton, 1978; and Jessica Starr, 1982.

## Hamilton

John and Cheryl Hamilton will live in the Leeward Islands, where he will start and develop churches and they will be involved in several outreach ministries. He is pastor of Highlands Baptist Church, Huntsville, Ala.

Born in Columbus, Ga., Hamilton is the son of the late Louie and Pauline Saxon, formerly of Memphis, Tenn. While growing up he also lived in Biloxi, Miss.; Maysville, Ky.; Covington, Tenn.; and Decatur, Ala.

He received the bachelor of arts degree from Belmont College, Nashville; the master of divinity degree from Southwestern Seminary; and the doctor of ministry degree from New Orleans Seminary.

He served in the U.S. Air Force. He also has been pastor of Calvary Church, Summit, Miss.; Flint Church, Decatur, Ala.; and First Church, Irvington, Ala.

Born in Biloxi, Miss., Mrs. Hamilton, the former Cheryl Rector, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Rector of that city. While growing up she also lived in Oxnard, Calif., and Nagoya, Japan. She considers Biloxi her hometown.

She received the diploma from Mobile (Ala.) Infirmary School of Nursing. She achieved registered nurse standing by examination in Tennessee.

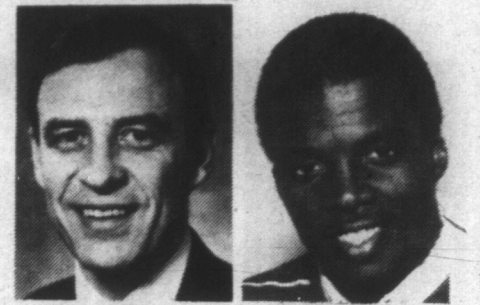
The Hamiltons have two daughters, Patricia Lynn, born in 1968; and Elizabeth Ann, 1981. These couples will go to Rockville, Va., in January 1988 for a seven-week orientation before leaving for the field.

The annual Mississippi Baptist Medical-Dental Fellowship meeting will take place May 7 at First Church, Jackson, with Bill Swan, medical missionary to Macao as guest speaker.

The meeting begins with fellowship at 6 p.m., followed by a banquet at 6:30. Cost is \$10 per person. Reservations may be made by contacting the sponsoring organization, the Brotherhood Department, Box 530, Jackson, Miss., 39205, or phoning 968-3800. Nursery and preschool care will be provided.

Swan is assigned by the Foreign Mission Board to Hong Kong and to Macao as a physician. His work includes making housecalls in the community. A graduate of the University of Oklahoma School of Medicine, Swan is a native of Arkansas and was a Navy physician.

Sheldon Gooch, an inmate at the



Swan

Gooch

Rankin County Correctional Institution, will sing at the meeting, and David Sneed, a Mississippi physician, will discuss his recent missions trip to Honduras.

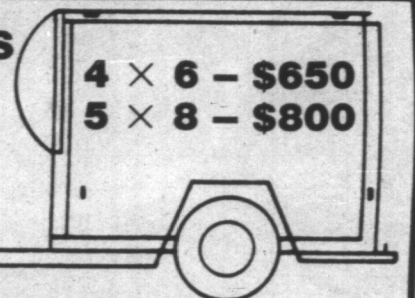
David Carner of Brookhaven is president of the group, Paul VanLandingham of Jackson is vice president and president-elect, and Mitch Hutto of Jackson is secretary.

Residents and medical and dental students are invited.

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## Crawford to lead singles

Dan Crawford, associate professor of evangelism, Southwestern Seminary, will serve as pastor for the Single Adult Retreat at Gulfshore, May 15-17.

The theme of the conference will be "A Gathering of Singles around Spiritual Values." Other conference leaders include

Crawford Len Sehested, Fort Worth, on "Relationships;" Mr. and Mrs. Gordan Swaim, on "Before You Marry" and "Developing Communication Skills." Reid Doster, Covington, La., will lead a group in building their own agenda.

Ann Gardner, single adult consultant, Baptist Sunday School Board, will speak to a general session and conduct leadership conferences. Paul Jones, Christian Action Commission, will lead two seminars on "Issues Singles Face." Crawford will conduct a conference on "Life-Style Evangelism," and other seminars will be led by Mike Romeo, Gulfport, and J. Clark Hensley, single adult consultant, MBCB.

Genter L. Stephens of New Orleans will lead the music and give two mini concerts, accompanied by David Roberts, Brookhaven, and Art Nelson, Jackson. Len Sehested will be the

workshop leader for the morning watch. The talent show will be directed by Mike Romeo, who also serves as associate director of the retreat.

Reservations should be made by sending \$30 per person to Frank Simmons, Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, Henderson Point, Pass Christian, MS 39571.

Preferences should be stated for roommate. The cost of the weekend reservation fee, room and meals is \$58.00 for the A unit (two to room) or \$52.80 in the C units, more than two to a room.



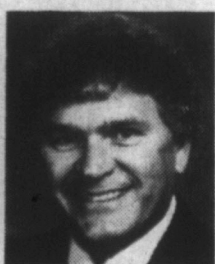
Sehested



Doster



Swaim



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# SBC won't be only game in St. Louis



## The 'other' game

The Southern Baptist Convention won't be the only game in town when SBC messengers converge on St. Louis June 16-18 for the annual meeting. Busch Stadium, home of the St.

Louis Cardinals, will be the site of skirmishes between the Cards and the Pittsburgh Pirates every night. (BP) photo courtesy St. Louis Convention & Visitors Commission.

By Marv Knox

ST. LOUIS (BP) — Southern Baptists' annual convention won't be the only game in town when perhaps 30,000 participants converge on St. Louis June 16-18.

The Cards play the Pirates. So while the Southern Baptist Convention presidency is at stake in Cervantes Center, a baseball pennant will be in the making in Busch Stadium.

Together the events will attract about 83,000 fans — of baseball and Baptists — to downtown St. Louis.

Merchants will be pleased with the prospect of so many outsiders visiting the Gateway to the West. Those visitors may not be so thrilled.

They'll discover they don't all fit comfortably into the city's bustling business district, especially on top of all the workers who have to drive in every day.

Some common concerns:

### Parking

— Parking. The Busch Stadium gang has the edge. While St. Louis has better-than-average downtown parking for a city its size, the situation faced by messengers to the SBC meeting on the north end of downtown "still will be difficult," says Tim A. Hedquist, convention manager.

Fortunately for the SBC crowd, the convention's local arrangements committee has done a good job of identifying parking places on special parking maps, Hedquist says. These will be available at the information booth in Cervantes Center on Sunday and Monday, June 14 and 15.

### Shuttles

— Shuttles. The SBC scores. Free shuttle buses will run from downtown and Forest Park hotels to Cervantes Center. Others may run from remote parking lots if convention planners can work out the details, Hedquist reports.

— Vehicle routes. Both groups win. Routes to the facilities are well-marked from all interstate highways.

— Food. If it's concessions — hot dogs, soft drinks, and nachos — the ballpark's the winner. "Normally Cervantes Center is very good for concessions, but this year we're very, very tight," Hedquist notes. "The space we normally would give to concessions is designated for chairs" so up to 30,000 convention messengers can fit into the center.

As far as other culinary questions are concerned, the convention center is the locale of choice. St. Louis Centre is only two blocks away, and the shopping center is crisscrossed with eating establishments. Add to this the normal urban fare of restaurants and hotel coffee shops, and downtown St. Louis should prove to be a gastronomical delight for convention messengers.

### No brown bags

But brown baggers better beware. Coolers and picnic baskets will be impounded, at least for folks trying to get them into Cervantes Center.

— Restrooms. Convention messengers might want to buy a ticket to the ballgame, just to walk

eight blocks to the ballpark and walk right in a restroom. That walk could be shorter than the wait in line at Cervantes.

Hedquist remembers, "The last time we were there, we completely closed the sewage system in that part of downtown." That was 1980, when only 13,844 messengers showed up; just think what twice that many messengers can do.

— Housing. Obviously, the baseball fans come out on top of this category. Most of them drive home after the evening games. Unfortunately, out-of-town fans and any messengers who don't already have room reservations are in a fix. All downtown hotels have been booked for months.

"We can give messengers the phone numbers of some hotels, but they're pretty far out — about 10 to 15 miles," Hedquist says. "There's no such thing as downtown hotel cancellations, at least until Monday," June 15.

Messengers who bring their homes with them may be in better shape.

### RV parking

Recreational vehicle parks within four miles of the convention center have space available. And people who cannot afford hotel rooms but would like to stay with local Southern Baptists may be able to secure beds for the week.

For information about housing accommodations, contact the SBC Executive Committee, 901 Commerce -750, Nashville, Tenn. 37203, or call (615) 244-2355.

— First aid. Since the Cards' outfielder Willie McGee hits more hard foul balls into the stands than, say, SBC President Adrian Rogers, Cervantes Center theoretically is a safer place to visit than Busch Stadium. But just in case something happens at the convention, a first aid facility will be available at the center. It will be located on the west side of the main entry hall, staffed by Missouri Baptist Hospital.

— Handicap access. Busch Stadium has its sections, but the entire convention center is "very, very good" in terms of handicap accessibility, Hedquist reports. All meeting halls are on the main floor, which is flat.

Although registration and exhibit halls are on the second level, elevators are available for handicapped messengers.

### Messengers only

— Admission. Baseball fans can simply buy a ticket and get in the stadium. Messengers to the convention go through a process that is more complicated.

All messengers — Southern Baptists who come to the convention, hear reports, and vote their consciences — must be elected by their respective churches, bring their completed official messenger registration cards, and register on the second floor of Cervantes Center before they can get into the meeting halls. Registration will be open from 3 to 10 p.m. Sunday, June 14, and from 8:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday. It will open at 8 a.m. Tuesday and 8:30 a.m. Wednesday and Thursday.

Very few non-registered people will be able to get into the convention facility. Only messengers, preschool children who are accompanied by their messenger parents, program leaders, and the press will be admitted, Hedquist reports. Meeting halls will be open to non-messengers only if the halls are not full, but that is not more than 10,000 fewer than last year, and 15,000 fewer than the 1985 convention.

Furthermore, those participants will be admitted on a first-come, first-served basis. "The convention center holds 30,000 max, and there is no flexibility," he explains, noting the facility — with one main hall and three overflow halls — legally accommodates only 30,000 people. That's more than 10,000 less than last year, and 15,000 less than the 1985 convention.

Other facilities in St. Louis, such as Kiel Auditorium, could accommodate additional messengers who could participate via closed-circuit television. But logistical problems create a planner's nightmare. For instance, what if a large hall were rented at great cost, and not enough messengers showed up to warrant using it? "We don't know what we're going to do," Hedquist admits. "It's going to be very tough."

— Children. Baseball fans can take the whole family out to a two- or three-hour game. It's not that simple for messengers who bring their children to the convention, with its 15-hour days of business sessions.

### Child care

To alleviate some of those problems, preschool child care will be provided for all seven business sessions of the convention — three Tuesday, two Wednesday, and two Thursday — and the facilities will open 30 minutes before each session. Cost will be \$5 for each session, not to exceed \$25 per child for all seven sessions.

"Parents who want the child care need to get their reservations in; it's about to close," Hedquist notes. Reservations should be sent to SBC Preschool Child Care, c/o Fee Fee Baptist Church, 11330 St. Charles Rock Rd., Bridgeton, Mo. 63044.

Older children in grades 1-6 will not be allowed on the convention floor unless they are registered messengers, he says. Day care will be provided for these children by the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission, and preregistration is not necessary.

### 'Peace in the Valley'

Southern Baptist baseball fans face a difficult decision! Convention Preacher Jerry Vines can put out a good sermon, but the Cards' Ozzie Smith can throw out a fast runner. The lines are shorter at Busch's restrooms, but votes taken at Cervantes can change the future of the SBC. Convention parking's tight, but at least no one will spill beer all over the place.

What to do? Before it comes to a flip of the coin, think of the music.

At the ballpark, it's the national anthem and "Take Me Out to the Ballgame," over at Cervantes, it'll be "Amazing Grace" and maybe even "Peace in the Valley."

Marv Knox is BP feature editor.

## N.O. Seminary dedicates new student center

NEW ORLEANS — New Orleans Seminary recently dedicated, debt-free, a \$6.2 million, 119,000-square-foot student center.

The building and its 6.5 acres of land adjacent to the seminary were purchased for \$3.3 million in 1981 through capital budget funds from the Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program unified budget. The seminary raised an additional \$2.8 million for renovation through a recent campaign.

An endowment pledge for ongoing maintenance of the building was given by Mary G. Hardin and her daughters, N. Elizabeth and Mary Lee, of Gadsden, Ala.

The two-story Hardin Student Center occupies 119,000 square feet used for offices, classrooms, a computer lab, a clinic, a Baptist Book Store, a snack area, a post office, and a student lounge area.





## Secretaries elect officers

The State Secretaries Conference was held recently at Camp Garaywa. Elected to serve as officers of the Mississippi Baptist Secretaries Association for 1987-1988 are pictured, left to right, Nancy Ratliff, First Church, Tupelo, president; Betty Anne Bailey, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, first vice president; Tinie Slade, Bayou View Church, Gulfport, second vice president, Fae Ross, Yalobusha Association, secretary-treasurer.

# Letters to the editor

## Where the money goes

Editor:

In your recent editorial "Contractual Dispute" concerning the Valentine retirement, you answered a lot of questions for me and helped settle some indecisions that I have had.

First, you answered the question, "Just where does a great deal of our gifts go to?" Your answer was that most all the heads of our agencies make in excess of \$100,000 annually and that we are willing to pay up to \$80,000 or more to a retiree to work out of his home as an Executive Officer of Development. Now there is one question I still need answered: "What kind of position is that?"

Second, you answered for me the question, "Are the heads of our agencies and denominationally staffed personnel in real touch with the average Southern Baptist pastor?" Obviously not, when on the average the Southern Baptist pastor lives on a much lower economic level, much, much lower. Some of my indecisions have been settled now also. My indecision to keep silent has obviously changed.

You have only to look at a denominational calendar and observe that there is a day set aside for almost everything and usually an offering to back it up. I've loved and supported our convention now for 16 years. All of these years, I've devoted to the pulpit and the local church field. Someone told me once, "If you were just educated to denominational life, you would understand it. Well, after 16 years of education, I do know more and understand clearly that something is very wrong."

My prayers, love, and support are continual but no longer with a silent voice. What we do as Southern Baptists must be done totally within the boundary of God's word. II Timothy 2:5 says "If a man strive for masteries, yet is he not crowned, except he strive lawfully."

There is a crown awaiting for many Southern Baptists, but only those who have striven lawfully. All are obvious-

ly striving but only some lawfully.

Ricky E. Kennedy, pastor  
Meadow Grove Church  
Brandon

In the light of what we have learned in recent days concerning salaries, there are other things also that need to be considered. One is that there are extremely few agency heads among the 14.5 million Southern Baptists, and even fewer who make the kind of income that has been mentioned. A second is that the income mentioned may include fringe benefits such as insurance, housing, cars, and so forth. Also we know that the total package received by these men is less than that received by the highest paid pastors in the convention, and the likelihood is that there are more pastors making this kind of income than there are agency heads making it.

Another point is that it is difficult for the head of an agency with 1,500 employees to have an opportunity to be in touch with all of the 36,000 local pastors, but I'd have to say that the man in that position tries to do it. It is difficult for the director of a missions operation with 3,500 missionaries all over the world to be in touch with local pastors, but he has to try if he is to be effective. And Larry Lewis, who came out of the right-wing ranks, to be the head of the Home Mission Board with 3,500 missionaries all over the nation, will make the same sort of salary and benefits and have the same problems trying to stay in touch.

Finally, these men have been local pastors. They have struggled with inadequate salaries just as other pastors have done and are doing.

Incidentally, Mississippi Baptist salaries are published on Page 69 of the 1986 convention annual. And in a discussion of where the money goes, it could be mentioned that there were no cost-of-living increases this year because of the budget squeeze.

Also incidentally, the chairman of the Christian Life Commission told me that the commission expects the development executive position to produce income. That would be taken to mean above his salary and expenses.

— Editor

## Faces And Places

by anne washburn mcwilliams

## Lucille goes to Mexico

Remember last fall I wrote about Lucille Cannon of Bruce who was inspiring — and helping — Calhoun County women to make quilts for Mexico? (Lucille, now 80, is the one who lived at the Baptist Orphanage until she was about ten, and the one who taught so many Vacation Bible Schools for black children, way back).

Well, the women ended up with 115 quilts, and Lucille delivered them to Mexico in person:

A team from Calhoun County went to Montemorelos in February to do some building, hold worship services, distribute medicine, and deliver the quilts and other goods to Wayne Fleming, a Baptist from Calhoun County who is an independent missionary in Mexico. The Flemings have established a camp and a Bible Institute for young pastors at Montemorelos, and he has started several preaching points and churches in the vicinity. (See story on p. 8).

The volunteers went in two vans, and also took a 42-foot trailer packed with clothes (many of the Mexicans live in poverty), a piano, medicines, building supplies, cooking utensils, the quilts, and food for the team members themselves. Lucille's house was one of the collection points for these supplies, and her house for weeks was filled to overflowing. When the truck stopped at her place, she

helped to load it. (Lucille had prayed for the piano and gotten it.)

Several had given old pots and pans, but she didn't want to take anything to Mexico that didn't look good, so she spent a lot of time scrubbing the pots. She used a hammer, an ice pick, Comet, steel wool, and ammonia — and still had to rely on more elbow grease.

"But this was a blessing to me," she said. "The Lord taught me something. He said to me, 'I have to clean up some folks like that, who have wandered off and gotten dirty with sin.'"

She heard the camp needed some knives and forks, so she said "Lord, there's my silverware. You can have it." Into the trailer it went.

One day John Stewart, pastor of Rocky Branch, said, "Our church wants to send you to Mexico, too, with this group." Stewart himself was going.

"No, Brother Stewart, they need the money in Mexico. Don't spend it on me." But the missions committee overrode her veto. They didn't give her the money, for she might give it away. They bought the plane ticket and gave it to her. Those going in the vans went a few days earlier than she did.

So she presented the quilts to the Flemings, for use by Mexican children at the camp and the young student pastors at the Bible Institute. (Now she's working on a pillow making project, to go with the quilts. She wants to make 100 sheets and pillowcases and 100 pillows.)

Lucille had a bad cold while she was in Mexico, so she did not go out into the rain with Mary Baker and the others who gave out medicines. She stayed inside and prayed for those who were sharing the plan of salvation. Also she gave her testimony in a Mexican church, with an interpreter, and led a devotional service in the dining room.

Since she is a good cook herself (I sampled some more of her good dried peach puffs not long ago), she was interested in the food that the Mexican women prepared for them on their final evening in Montemorelos. The meal included beans, yucca, and tortillas, she said, and cactus, which tasted to her something like an asparagus casserole. "They cook with mesquite wood," she told me. "It doesn't make much smoke or coals."

The making of real Mexican tamales she had never seen, so she stayed in the kitchen to watch how it was done. (She noted that the five-gallon stainless steel pot sent as a gift from First Church, Bruce, was already in use.)



Lucille Cannon of Bruce, left, presents one of 115 quilts to Wayne and Nina Fleming, for use in their mission work in Mexico. The quilts were made by Baptist women of Calhoun County.



Lucille Cannon gets ready to taste hot tamales in Montemorelos, Mexico. The large boiler was given a Baptist camp there by the WMU of First Church, Bruce.

## "Stop cringing, start witnessing"

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP) — Too many Christians "cower" in their churches rather than witness boldly to persons of other religious backgrounds, a veteran Southern Baptist missions strategist claimed.

Wendell Belew, associate vice presi-

dent for missions strategy interpretation at the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, told Southern Baptist Theological Seminary students Christians must overcome fears spawned by religious, cultural and language differences if they are to communicate their faith effectively.

Not every witnessing effort will be successful, Belew added, but the challenge is to be faithful to the biblical mandate to share one's faith.

"The Spirit has anointed me to proclaim the gospel; he didn't ask me to count the scalps," he explained.



# 212 professions of faith reported by Calhoun group

By Anne W. McWilliams

Of 36 Calhoun County Baptists who went on mission to Mexico in February, eight were from Rocky Branch Church. It was the fourth consecutive year that Rocky Branch had sent out a work team to another state or country, under the leadership of John Stewart, pastor.

Wayne Bailey, a veterinarian and member of the New Hope Church, coordinated the Mexico endeavor. The group went to Montemorelos, to assist Wayne Fleming, an independent missionary who is a Baptist from Calhoun County. Fleming has established a camp, a Bible Institute, and several churches and preaching points in an area where poverty is severe.

The team, including some doctors and nurses, distributed medicine to 879 people. Pastor Stewart was one of those who worked in the pharmacy during that time. He and Rob Pelkey of Calvary Church preached in the worship services, some indoors and others outdoors at the preaching points.

As a result of the special services and of individual witnessing, 212 professions of faith were reported.

Several young Mexican men, students at the Bible Institute, witnessed to every person who received medicine. A questionnaire was given to each patient. Before the person could get medicine, he or she would have to agree to listen to a testimony about Jesus, and the way to obtain abundant life through him. They did not have to agree to believe what they heard, or to join anything — just agree to listen to the presentation. As a result, many did hear, and many accepted Jesus as their savior. To those who did make a profession of faith, Spanish New Testaments were given.

The young students did the witnessing because they spoke the Spanish language. They and Fleming served as interpreters during preaching services. The students were converts, won and taught by Fleming. Mrs. Margarita Vaughn of Winona, a Mex-

ican American born in Baja, Calif., also helped in personal witnessing.

Calhoun County men did some construction work on the building that will house the Bible Institute and be used for the training of preachers. Camp dorms and the Flemings' apartment got paint, lights, and plumbing.

A team of mechanics worked on the mission's vehicles. Since the roads of the area are so bad, the cars and trucks don't hold up well. Two used vans were given to the mission.

Two vans and a 42-foot trailer delivered food for the team, clothing, 115 quilts, a piano, hot water heater, stove, bathroom fixtures, ceiling fans, fluorescent lights, medicines, and pots and pans. Calhoun County women had made the quilts. (See "Faces and Places," p. 7.)

During the first week in July, 24 from Rocky Branch will go back to Montemorelos, in cars, Stewart said. These will include the pastor and his wife, Betty, and their daughter Angela, 15. That team will be from Rocky Branch only. Next year, probably in February, another team will go from Calhoun County.

The Stewarts own a cattle farm in Lafayette County. He works part time at the Post Office in Oxford, while at the same time serving as Rocky Branch's pastor. He was pastor at Drivers Flat Church before moving to Rocky Branch in 1980.

Previously, Rocky Branch volunteer teams had gone to Indianapolis (21 people) in 1984; Richmond, Va. (23 in 1985); and Olathe, Kansas (18 in 1986). These traveled together in their individual family cars. The men did construction work and the women did surveys and Backyard Bible Schools. In each case, they helped a mission church that was just getting started. A Rocky Branch deacon, Billy Poyner, who is a contractor, led in the construction ventures.

Rocky Branch was organized July 13, 1944, in the home of W. R. Burt, with 13 charter members. Its services

had first been started, according to Mrs. Lucille Cannon of Bruce, under the shade of an oak tree, and under the leadership of Charlie Schmitz, who sometimes walked to his various pastorates.

Willie Clark gave an acre of land for the church site, which is near Bruce. All work on the first church building was done by labor in the community, with no skilled labor hired. The building was financed by a freewill offering from people throughout the county. In 1976 this old building was sold and moved. The present brick sanctuary was first used on Sept. 26, 1976.

The series of mission trips began after a World Missions Conference in which Stewart heard a missionary to Indiana and asked how Rocky Branch could help. Then everyone who went to Indiana wanted to go back to help in other places, too.

"Everywhere we have gone, there have been people who have as a result trusted the Lord," Stewart said.

"Also the mission trips have brought our people closer together, and given them a new awareness of what we have here to be thankful for.

"After the return each time, our outreach and offering picked up here, too."



A Mexican farmer stops his oxen a moment, to pose for a picture.



This Mexican Baptist church near Montemorelos, Mexico, is one of several organized under direction of Wayne Fleming, independent missionary from Calhoun County, Miss.



A group of Mexican women present special music for an outdoor night service. (Mississippi volunteers were in the audience.)

## IRS critics say abortion deduction still possible

WASHINGTON, D.C. (EP) — Critics of the IRS charge that current tax law could still allow a parent to claim as a dependent a child who lived momentarily after an induced abortion. The IRS claim such is not possible.

Abortion victims who live briefly are issued death certificates in most states. Until recently, IRS rules treated these children in the same way as other children who died in infancy, and theoretically allowed parents to claim them as dependents for the year in which they died. Revenue Ruling 73-156 holds that a parent may claim a dependency exemption for a child born alive during the taxable year, even though the child lives only momentarily, provided state and local law treats the child as having been born alive and the live

birth is evidenced by an official document, such as a birth certificate.

When challenged by Sen. Jesse Helms (R-N.C.), the IRS issued a clarification (Revenue Ruling 85-118), which says taxpayers must demonstrate that they have provided "support" for the child, and holds that expenses incurred for an induced abortion do not qualify as an item of support.

But, according to Douglas Johnson, of National Right To Life, aborted children who survive the procedure may live hours or days. "Say it survives six hours," he suggests. "During those six hours, if the clinic is following the law, the child is to be given life support and other medical care, and there would be hundreds of dollars in expenses in even that brief time that could be claimed as support."



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# Just for the Record

A Spiritual Awakening Conference will be held at Graceland Church, Vancleave, April 24-26. Speaking Apr. 24, 7 p.m. will be Lynn Chapuis, Wade Church, Wade, and Don Wilton, evangelist, New Orleans. Other speakers will be Albert Wilkerson, pastor, Parkway Church, Pascagoula, Apr. 25, 6 p.m.; and Randy Johnson, pastor, Graceland, Vancleave, Apr. 26, 9:45 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.

Special music will be presented by Tommy Randol, Sheldon Gooch, Glenda Dozier, and Steve White.

First Church, Oxford, on Feb. 1 observed student recognition day involving the youth and university students. The theme was "A Part Of the Heart." The record attendance in Bible study was 708.

The attendance record was again broken March 29, with 727 present in Bible study.

Special music, testimonies, a fellowship meal after the worship service, baptism, and the Lord's Supper were all observed on this Sunday.



Prentiss Church, Prentiss, recently held a recognition service for Acteens. The theme was "Gifted to Serve, Called to Act."

Pictured, left to right, are Courtney Barnes, queen; Pam Davis, queen; Rosanna Beck, queen; and Karen Pace and Renee Berry, service aides. The leaders are Emily Benzenhafer and Sonja Jones.



Arkadelphia Church, Bailey, recently held a GA and Acteen Recognition Service. The theme was "God's Love — pass It On!"

GAs (pictured) top, receiving special recognition, back row, from left, are Kristi Odom, Mrs. Suzie Thead, GA leader, Misty Mayfield, and Dee Mayfield. Front row, Michelle Vaughn, Karen Roberts, Joy Cook, and Camille Harbour.

Acteens, from left, at bottom, Audrey Harbour, queen; Shelia Harbour, queen; Shannon Faucette, queen; Tara Harrison; and Daphne White, queen. Mrs. Judy Yancey is leader of Acteens.



New Orleans — A conference on "Ministering to the Dying and Their Families" will be held in the room 211 in the Hardin Student Center of New Orleans Seminary from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday, May 18.

The conference is free of charge, and open to pastors, staff members, deacons, counselors, and church leaders.

Keynote speakers will be James Hightower, from the church administration department of the Baptist Sunday School Board, and Earl Sandifer, director of the church administration/architecture department for Louisiana Baptists.

For more information, contact the Office of Continuing Education, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, 3939 Gentilly Blvd., New Orleans, La., 70126.

The Mississippi College Department of Music will present the Mississippi College Concert Choir in Spring Concert, April 28, at 8 p.m. in Provine Chapel on the Clinton campus.

The Choir is directed by Richard Joiner, associate professor of music. The program will include works by Gabrieli, Handel, and Bach.

The Believers Quartet will be singing at Old Pearl Valley Church, Philadelphia, April 25, 7 p.m. Sammy J. McDonald, pastor.

First Church, Crystal Springs will feature the Concert Choir from Copiah-Lincoln Junior College in a concert, April 26, at 7 p.m. This 36-voice ensemble is under the direction of Greg Long. Joel E. Haire, pastor.

First, Coffeeville: April 26-May 1; services, noon and 7:30 p.m.; pastor/evangelist, Truman D. Scarborough; music evangelist, Perry Robinson, minister of music, First, Ellisville.

First, Lambert: Apr. 26-29; Sunday, 11 a.m., 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed. 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Phil Glisson, Memphis, evangelist; Hugh Boswell, Clarksdale, music evangelist; Courtney Selvy, pastor; Clyde Schiele, associate pastor.

Eastside, Pearl: Apr. 26-29; Barry Corbett, pastor, First, Pelahatchie, evangelist; Ken Talley, minister of music, Center Terrace, Canton, music evangelist; weekday services, 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m., 7 p.m.; Howard Benton, pastor.

Antioch, Columbus: Apr. 26-29; Sunday, 11 a.m., 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., noon and 7 p.m.; Ken Altom, pastor, First, Cookeville, Tenn., evangelist; Slater Murphy, minister of music, Fairview, Columbus, music; Jimmy Harrington, pastor; Mac Pace, minister of music.

## Mississippi Baptist activities

- |            |   |
|------------|---|
| Apr. 26    | Life Commitment Sunday (CAPM & SBC Emphasis)                                |
| Apr. 27    | College Concern Conference; FBC, Cleveland; 7-9 p.m. (SS)                   |
| Apr. 27-28 | Preaching Dialogue; Camp Garaywa, Clinton; 2 p.m., 27th-4 p.m., 28th (CAPM) |
| Apr. 28    | College Concern Conference; FBC, Jackson; 7-9 p.m. (SS)                     |
| Apr. 30    | College Concern Conference; FBC, Gulfport; 7-9 p.m. (SS)                    |
| May 1-2    | Special Ministries Retreat; Camp Garaywa; 3 p.m., 1st-3 p.m., 2nd (SS)      |
| May 2      | Youth Speakers Tournament; Calvary BC, Jackson; 10-Noon (CT)                |
|            | Youth Selection Tournament; Calvary BC, Jackson; 1:30 p.m. (CT)             |



Wheeler Grove Church, Corinth (Alcorn) held the ground breaking ceremony for its new sanctuary on March 15. The new sanctuary will seat 900 people and will include offices, choir rooms, dressing rooms, and a balcony. The old sanctuary will be remodeled into Sunday School rooms. Those taking part in the ceremony, are pictured from left, Tommy Bonds, Kara Blachard, pastor, Ed Settle, and George Burns.

## Centennial

Roxie Church, Roxie, centennial celebration, May 3; Earl Kelly, executive secretary, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, morning message; followed by covered dish dinner on the grounds; centennial activities begins at 2 p.m.

## Homecomings

Puckett, Puckett: homecoming for Puckett Cemetery Association; Apr. 26; 11 a.m.; Joe McCaskill, speaker; lunch served on the grounds following service; Alvin C. Doyle, pastor.

Pine Burr, Columbia: May 3; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; message, 11; Porter Buckley, speaker; dinner, fellowship hall followed by gospel sing; Billy Holyfield, pastor.

## Revival Dates

Central, Little Yazoo (Yazoo): Apr. 26-29; evangelist, Thomas Phillips, Killen Ala.; music, Archie Goodwin, Mississippi College; Riley Ainsworth, pastor; J. B. Sherman, music director.

Mt. Zion, Columbus: Apr. 26-29; 10:30 a.m., 7 p.m.; Charles Melton, Newton, evangelist; David Watson, minister of music, Mt. Zion, singer; David Perry, pastor.

Antioch, Brandon: Apr. 26-29; 7:30 nightly; Tim Canterbury, Rock Hill, evangelist; Larry Duncan, pastor.

First, Okolona: Apr. 26-May 1; Kermit McGregor, evangelist; Phillip Willis, music; Roy McHenry, pastor.

Lizana, Gulfport: Apr. 26-29; Ernest Sadler, First, Wiggins, evangelist; Gerald Simmons, Bond, music; services, 11 a.m. Sunday and 7 nightly; Gerald H. Walker, pastor.

New Ireland, Union: Apr. 26-29; Barry Swartz, pastor, evangelist; Ronald Tullos, Oakland Heights, Meridian, music.

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## Devotional

Wintertime-Springtime-  
Death-Life

By Alvis K. Cooper

Springtime is such a beautiful time of the year. Yet, springtime comes after winter. Winter is a time of dying, yet, it is also a time of new life. This reminds me of the time of our Lord's death. He tried to prepare his disciples for his death when he said to them, "... the hour is come, that the Son of Man should be glorified. Verily, verily, I say unto you, except a grain of wheat fall to the ground and die, it abideth alone; but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit (John 12:23b-24)." Jesus gave his disciples a beautiful picture of his death, burial, and resurrection as he spoke to them.



Cooper

Jesus went through the wintertime of death for each of us. Like a grain of wheat buried in the earth, he was planted in a tomb. Like a grain of wheat, he rose from the earth's womb to new life. Like a grain of wheat, he has born much fruit since his resurrection.

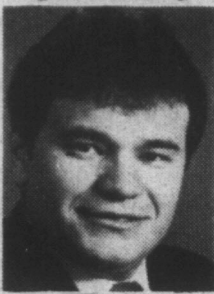
We too, must die if we expect to live in Christ Jesus. The old nature and its habits must be put to death and buried. Paul said, "... I die daily (I Corinthians 15:31b)." Again Paul said, "I am crucified with Christ: Nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me (Galatians 2:20)."

Like the grain of wheat that falls into the earth and dies, may we all die to self. Like Christ, who rose from the grave on that first Easter morning, let us rise to a fresh new life every day in Christ our Lord. Thank God for the resurrection.

Alvis K. Cooper is pastor, West Corinth Church, Corinth.

Area-wide crusade to  
be held at Meadville

An area-wide "Go Tell" Crusade will be held in Meadville at Franklin High School, 7 p.m. nightly, Apr. 25-30.



Mayorga

The crusade, now sponsored by 36 churches, was started by 22 Baptist churches and includes Franklin Association. The theme for the crusade is "We Can Make a Difference."

Jaime Mayorga, an evangelist was born in El Salvador, will be giving his message "A War on Drugs." Mayorga's life story illustrates how a tragic set of circumstances including early childhood abandonment, drug and alcohol abuse, street gang participation, and a multitude of discipline problems can be overcome by a life centered on Jesus Christ.

Following the youth rally, Apr. 25, at 7 p.m., there will be a bonfire with refreshments and entertainment.

The "World's Largest Pizza Blast" will be held for all youth grades 7th through college/career, Apr. 30, 5:45 p.m.

Donald R. Toomey  
dies at 57

Donald R. Toomey, 57, of Brandon, died April 15 at St. Dominic Hospital in Jackson. Memorial worship services were at First Church, Brandon, with burial at Fairfield Cemetery, Moselle.

Toomey was bi-vocational pastor of Shiloh Church, Vaiden, and employed by Malone & Hyde, Inc. of Monroe, La. For 28 years he served Mississippi Baptist churches, including Evansville Church in Coldwater; North Greenwood Church in Greenwood, and First Church in Itta Bena.

He is survived by his wife, Elizabeth McElroy Toomey, two daughters; Rebecca Toomey of New Orleans, Kathryn Toomey Roman of Baton Rouge; three sons; Donald R. Toomey Jr. of Money, Miss., David E. Toomey of Hattiesburg, and Richard F. Toomey of Vicksburg; one sister; Kathleen Toomey Busby of Ellisville; two brothers; James E. Toomey of Martin, TN, and Erskan C. Toomey of Mobile; and three grandchildren.

Memorials may be made to the Shiloh Baptist Church Baptistry fund.

MC to present  
Gerald Claxton in  
voice recital

The Mississippi College Department of Music will present Gerald Claxton, tenor, in a faculty voice recital on Thursday, April 30, at 8 p.m. in Aven Fine Arts Auditorium.

The recital is open to the public and no admission will be charged.

Claxton, an assistant professor of music and a member of the faculty since 1960, will be performing the 13 songs of Duparc. He will be assisted by Richard Joiner, baritone, associate professor of music, and Ceclia Renfro-Rassier, soprano, of Pearl.

The accompanist for the recital will be Rex Tatum of Clinton.

Claxton is music director at the Covenant Presbyterian Church in Jackson.

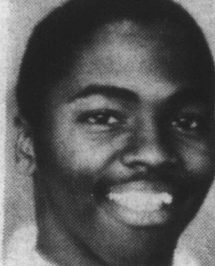
## Staff Changes



Zgarba

Jerry F. Zgarba has become pastor of Brooksville Church for the second time. He formerly served the church for over eight years before moving to Antioch Church, Lovelady, Tex.

Leonard Day, a student at William Carey College, has been called as minister of music at Southside Church, Gautier.



Day

Day was born in Canton where he attended Canton Public High School. He has performed with the Madrigal Singers, Carpenter's wood, Carey Carillon, and the Carey College Choral.

Day will be responsible for leading in worship and praise along with helping the youth director with various youth activities including youth theatre activities. He also will be directing adult choir.

East McComb Church, McComb, has called W. Donald Brown as minister of music. Brown began his duties April 1. He has served churches in Laurel, Lucedale, Batesville, Indianola, and served First Church, Hazlehurst for 16 years. Terry K. Minton, pastor.

Carl Teel has accepted the call as pastor of Bethany Church, Potts Camp. He was ordained by Carey Chapel Church, Mt. Pleasant.



Teel

He and his wife, Nona, have three boys, Jerome, a student at Union University and serving as youth minister in Jackson, Tenn.; Allen, 16; and Patrick, 13; who attend Mt. Pleasant Christian Academy where their mother teaches.

Pearlington, Gulf Coast, has called James Harrison of Slidell as pastor. He recently served as pastor in Kentwood, La.

Big Level Church, Gulf Coast, has called James Bankston as minister of music and youth. Bankston is the son of the late Jimmy Bankston, a minister.

## Lottie Moon gifts

(Continued from page 3)

ing, which has not surpassed its annual goal since 1981. Missionary salaries and operating funds will not be squeezed by the shortfall. But their capital budgets for housing, vehicles, and church or institutional construction will face cuts.

Several recent annual shortfalls have caught mission budget planners off guard, but not this year's. Many Southern Baptists are struggling to survive financially in the oil depressed economies of Texas, Oklahoma, and other southwestern states.

Falwell, Hustler to battle  
in U.S. Supreme Court

By Kathy Palen

WASHINGTON (BP) — The Supreme Court has agreed to review a case involving television evangelist Jerry Falwell and Hustler magazine publisher Larry Flynt.

The high court will determine if a lower court was correct in awarding \$200,000 to Falwell, who alleged an advertising parody in Flynt's magazine caused him "emotional distress." A key issue will be whether individuals who have not been libeled still can recover damages for published opinions or parodies that cause them emotional distress.

A three-judge panel of the 4th Circuit Court of Appeals last August refused to consider Flynt's argument that the parody was protected under the First Amendment as "opinion" or "rhetorical hyperbole." The panel said the only question was whether the ad was "sufficiently outrageous to constitute intentional infliction of emo-

tional distress."

The full appeals court voted 6-5 against reviewing the panel's decision.

In an appeal to the nation's highest court, Flynt's attorneys contended the appeals court decision "fatally undermined" First Amendment protections and would have a "chilling effect" upon the exercise of those rights.

"Mere hurt feelings are constitutionally insufficient to justify the imposition of substantial damages upon one who chooses to speak his mind, however unkindly, about a public personage," Flynt's attorneys said.

But Falwell's attorney, Norman Roy Grutman, argued the case involved "no constitutional issue deserving review." Instead, Grutman said, it centered on "the aberrant behavior of Larry Flynt... whose reckless and malicious conduct places him well outside the broad perimeters of constitutional protection."

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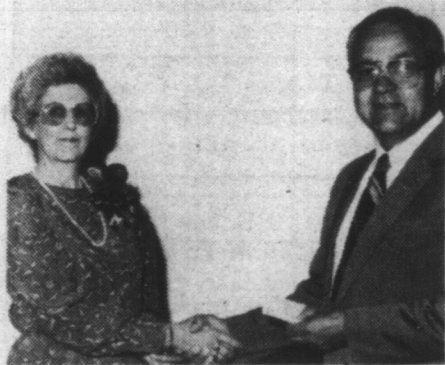
Or Jerry Vardaman, 323-9198

## Names in the News

Charles and Netta Boudreaux, missionaries to Guyana, are the parents of Aaron Michael, born March 12. They may be addressed at P. O. Box 10131, Georgetown, Guyana. He was born in Hattiesburg, Miss., and his wife, the former Netta Richardson, in New Orleans, La. Both consider Pascagoula, Miss., their hometown.



Neil Davis was recently ordained to the gospel ministry by First Church, Baldwin. He is now serving as pastor of East Pleasant Ridge Church, Prentiss Association. Leland Roberts, chairman of deacons at Baldwin's First Church is pictured presenting a Bible to Davis on behalf of the church. Leo Barker is pastor of First Church, Baldwin.



Mrs. Sara Nell Gentry recently retired after serving as secretary for First Church, Baldwin, for more than 19 years. The church honored her with a reception and presented her with a cash gift as an expression of appreciation. Pictured with Mrs. Gentry is Leo Barker, pastor.

Gaston Smith, math department chair at William Carey College, has been named 1987-88 president of the "Mississippi Teachers of College Mathematics." He was elected during the organization's annual meeting April 3 at the Hinds Lodge in Raymond.

## Cope Schedule — ACTS Network

Date:	Guest:	Topic:
Fri., April 24	CD Karen Hayter	Self-Esteem
	CP Ken Johnson	Dealing with Adolescents
Mon., April 27	CD Paul Meier	Depression
	CP Paul Meier	Depression
Tues., April 28	CD Mary Lee Hafley	Parenting
	CP Dr. Edgar Lucas	Sleep Disorders
Wed., April 29	CD Ken Johnson	Adolescents
	CP Dan McGee	Stress Management
Thurs., April 30	CD Ben Loring	Open Lines
	CP Ben Loring	Open Lines

CD = DAY COPE

CP = NIGHT COPE



# Did not our hearts burn within us, while he talked?

By Robert M. Hanvey  
Luke 24:13-19, 27-35

"Did not our hearts burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures?" (Luke 24:32). Are these not beautiful and awe inspiring words? Are these not words of deep and abiding commitment? Are these not words of deep joy and concern? Are these not words expressed after the two on the road to Emmaus had discussed with Jesus the things of Almighty God?



Hanvey

As we view the particular words of God in our focal passage (Luke 24:13-19, 27-35) let our hearts burn within us, too. As we study the Bible with openness to its truth, we will allow it to lead us to the risen Lord through the guidance of the Holy Spirit of God. We would also desire to see adults commit themselves to greater faithfulness in Bible study and to the great truths of Almighty God.

Our focal passage, of course, shares with us the events on the Emmaus road. There the resurrected Christ appeared, though the ones to whom he appeared were not able to recognize him. At that particular moment in his life the

## UNIFORM

two who joined him, his followers, talked and shared with him the events of the past days. Jerusalem had been filled with all kinds of turmoil and all kinds of events and those were discussed with the Lord Jesus. The two followers told of what had happened to Jesus and the report of his resurrection. As a matter of fact, they related the account of the two ladies who had gone and found the grave or tomb to be empty. Jesus then explained how his death and resurrection fulfilled the Scriptures. They were perhaps frightened. They were perhaps awed. They were perhaps, at that moment, not really able to understand all that they had heard until Jesus sat and ate with them.

He had been invited to be a guest in their home for the evening. The hour was late and as the meal was served, Jesus took the bread, broke it, blessed it, and their eyes were opened to who he was and what had happened. The Scriptures record for us that after he had blessed and broke the bread he disappeared from their sight.

Surely there were questions in their hearts and their minds as they reflected upon the work

of Jesus with them. As they walked the road home surely the men were saying that "our hearts did burn within us as we talked to Him," something different happened to us, something was different in the conversation and is that not the case when we talk to God?

Does not our heart burn within us, too? Not only with excitement and joy but when times are difficult, our hearts still burn. The two men talked of their excitement and joy as Jesus had talked with them and opened the Scriptures to them because their hearts and their lives had been illuminated. Enlightenment had come to them concerning this Christ. They then returned to Jerusalem to tell the other disciples what they had seen.

Jesus later appeared to the group and there he shared with them to remain in Jerusalem until he would send to them that which God had promised, meaning the Holy Spirit of God would come and empower them.

As we give further concern to our focal passage and to the concerns of adults today, we would say that the two followers who encountered Jesus were listening to him interpret the Scriptures. As we allow God's Spirit to interpret the Scriptures in our hearts today we find value, we find worth, and we find depth in the Bible through what it has to offer to us.

Jesus was the fulfillment of the Scriptures, and he still is the fulfillment of the Scriptures. We can confirm to people today the importance of what God has to say in Holy Writ.

The openness of the two followers of Christ on the road to Emmaus shares with us that we can as adults be open to the truths of Jesus today. They were and we need to be. Perhaps it is that we would adopt the same eagerness to share what has happened in terms of witnessing the power of God. They saw him with the eye. We know him by his Spirit and we can still give eager witness to his work in us.

The Bible does emphasize to you and to me the testimony of Christ as the risen Lord. We know that the Bible helps people to understand Jesus and to grow in him. We know that the Bible encourages us each time we read, either in daily devotional and deep Bible study or some method of really getting into the Word of God and allowing it to speak to our hearts. May we attempt in these moments of Bible study to convey belief in the trustworthiness of the Scriptures so that people know the Bible means something to our lives as the people of God. Just allow the witness of the Holy Spirit of God in you to help others meet the Risen Lord, too.

Robert M. Hanvey is pastor, First, Hazlehurst.

# Do the wicked really suffer? Job's friends said so

By Charles Wesley

Job 18:5-8; 19:23-27; 21:7-16

Communication occurs in cycles. A person will make a statement. Then the second person will give feedback to the first person. Next, the



Wesley

first person tells the second person if he heard correctly or not. This cycle will be repeated until the two people understand one another or until the communication cycle is broken off. In the book of Job we are able to read the cycles of communication between Job and his friends, Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar. This week's lesson is concerned with the second cycle of communication (15:1-21:34).

In the first cycle Job was told by his friends that his suffering was the consequence of sins he had committed. The same theme is continued and amplified in the second cycle. The amplification tries to answer the question: Do the wicked always suffer the consequences for their wickedness in their lifetime?

Moreover, the dialogue intensifies as each one

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states his opinions. The charges brought against Job increase in severity as the friends attempt to persuade Job to be honest about his sins. Politeness was discarded by all in this cycle. Job responded to the accusations of his friends by informing them that they were making his situation worse instead of bringing sympathy and comfort.

Also, Job emphatically denied that his suffering was the punishment of God for his sinfulness. Job vacillated between despair and hope. At one point Job stated that God was using him for target practice (16:13). Yet, Job expresses his hope that God will vindicate him (19:25-26). Finally, Job stated that he had seen the wicked prosper and that he had seen death come to the wicked while they were prospering (21:7-16). Job would not accept the answers of his friends to his questions (21:34).

Relevant lessons can be learned from the second cycle of speeches that will help us as we minister to others who are suffering. First, there is a lesson about kicking people when they are down. The friends of Job, instead of giving

comfort, inflicted more pain on Job. The friends (and we really wonder if they are indeed friends) began to kick Job with harsh words before they understood his plight. This cycle of speeches shows the danger of having a mind closed to new understanding and not allowing honest evaluation of our beliefs. There is always the danger of false assumptions when we see someone suffering. Even in cases where sin is the obvious cause of suffering (not like Job's case) we are to respond to the hurting person with love and with the redemptive message of the gospel.

Second, there is a lesson about holding on to your hope in God. What does a person do when his experience does not square with his theology? That was the dilemma of Job. He previously held to the same belief of his friends that God would always bring suffering to the wicked in his lifetime. But Job's experience was causing Job to seriously question this belief. As Job searched for answers, he became angry and at times blamed God for his situation. But in spite of Job's despair and his sometime irrational thinking, he held on to the hope that God would finally vindicate him. We should

remember that in the Bible hope does not indicate a wish or desire. Rather, hope means confidence and trust. Even though suffering may be severe and the questions unanswerable, a confident trust in God keeps us afloat when the waves are high and the storm is fierce.

Third, there is a continuing lesson about suffering. Job would not accept the arguments of his friends. They insisted that Job had sinned and that his suffering was God's punishment. Does a person always get what he deserves in this life? The friends of Job answered, "yes." However, Job's answer was "not necessarily." Job knew from his own experience that he did not deserve his suffering. Furthermore, Job observed wicked people who prospered until their death. Suffering is not always an indication of sin anymore than wealth and health are always indications of a life pleasing to God.

When we are ministering to hurting people let us not be quick to proclaim our assumptions concerning the reason for their suffering. Instead let us listen and then proclaim the hope that is found in the gospel.

Charles Wesley is pastor, Morrison Chapel, Cleveland.

# Two on the way to Emmaus: witnesses to the living Lord

By Nathan L. Barber  
Luke 24:13-39, 45-48

The two friends on their way to Emmaus talked about all the things which had taken place during the past three days. Everyone in



Barber

Jerusalem seemed to be aware of what had happened to Jesus the Nazarene. He was generally thought of as a prophet who was mighty in deed and word in the sight of God and the people. The religious leadership had succeeded in arranging for him to be sentenced to death by Roman crucifixion. While he was alive they had hoped that Jesus was he who was going to redeem Israel. That hope had died and been buried with him. Now they have been amazed at the account of several women whom they knew. The women said that they had gone to the tomb early in the morning and discovered that the body of Jesus was gone. The women reported that some angels had told them that he was alive. Some of the disciples rushed to the tomb and found it just exactly as the women had said; but Jesus

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they did not see. Those close to the situation accounted for the report of angels at the empty tomb as simply being the result of the deep emotional sympathy of grieving women.

Cleopas and his friend had been prevented from recognizing Jesus for a period of time while they traveled with the Resurrected Lord. After listening to their running account of the events of the past several days, Jesus said to them, "O foolish men and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! Was it not necessary for the Christ to suffer these things and to enter into his glory? And beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, he explained to them the things concerning himself in all the Scriptures."

In so many words Jesus said to the two travelers that the Scriptures are clearly to be seen as a dynamic witness of who he is and what his life and ministry are all about. Beginning probably with Gen. 3:15, Jesus opened the Scriptures to them in a way that they had never seen nor understood before. Their hearts burn-

ed within (v. 32) them as Jesus connected the familiar words of the Scriptures to the unfamiliar Word who had become flesh and had set up his tent of human flesh among men for over three decades (John 1:14).

Finally when he took the bread and blessed it and broke it with them, Jesus must certainly have taught them concerning his body which he had given for them (22:19). In much the same way as he had instructed the Twelve, he must have also revealed the "new covenant" in his blood. With the instruction completed, "... their eyes were opened and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight" (v. 31).

But the burning of their hearts had started a fire that would not be quenched. Even though the hour was late, they immediately returned to Jerusalem. They felt compelled to share with the eleven and other disciples concerning their personal encounter with the Resurrected Jesus.

Upon arriving in Jerusalem and finding a number of the disciples gathered together, they discovered that Jesus had also appeared to Peter. The disciples were excited and filled with awe. Peter's witness of his personal encounter with the Risen Lord could not be dismissed as

was the women's report. (Lazarus probably smiled and said, "I told you so.") The two from Emmaus then related their encounter with the Resurrected One. "And while they were telling these things, he himself stood in their midst" (v. 36).

The disciples were caught off guard and thought that they were seeing a spirit instead of the person of Jesus. "Why are you troubled, and who do doubts arise in your hearts? See My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself; touch Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have" (vv. 38, 39). Then Jesus ate with them and made the point clear.

Now he said to them, "These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things which are written about me in the Law of Moses and the prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled. Then he opened their minds to understand the Scripture..."

In addition to the Scriptures, Jesus reminded those who had had a personal encounter with him that, "You are witnesses of these things" (v. 48). As his witnesses, his disciples are compelled to proclaim repentance and forgiveness of sins to all nations.

Nathan Barber is pastor, First, Bay St. Louis.



# Baptist Record

## 61 Mississippians build farm complex in Belize

Sixty-one Mississippi Baptist laymen and ministers from several areas of the state have constructed five buildings in seven trips at the Practical Agricultural Training Farm (P.A.T.) in Belmopan, Belize, Central America. Since February of 1983, when the National Agricultural Mission Fellowship of Yazoo City was contacted by Cliff Scarbough in Belmopan, Belize, the laymen have gone to Belize to build a dormitory for students, complete work on a kitchen and dining room, build a farm director's house, a guest house, and a horse and equipment barn.

The guest house was remodeled by the last volunteer group to accommodate William and Toshika Pigford from Pascagoula, who will live and work with the students at the farm for two years as Southern Baptist Missions Volunteers.

One of the teams installed some 1,400 feet of water line from a free flowing spring in the hills surrounding the farm — to provide a year round supply of water to all of the houses for cooking and irrigation of crops.

The main goal of the farm, which has been carved out of dense jungle by hand, is to teach the young

Belmopan boys to grow crops and tend to livestock; so they can feed themselves and provide income to support their future families. The farm has over 30 acres and is in cultivation by horse drawn equipment. Vegetables and melons are the major crops. Beef animals, sheep, and horses are raised for food and work at the farm.

Dick Stafford, in agricultural sales in Greenwood, and a co-founder of Ag Mission Foundation, co-ordinated five of the seven teams to Belize, one team to Dominica, and two teams to Mexico to work with Nelson Philpott, who was murdered in the fall of 1985. He spent 13 days on Dominica in 1979, working with James Smith, pastor of Hollandale Church, Hollandale, providing emergency communication for Southern Baptist missionaries and the International Red Cross after Hurricane David leveled the island.

National Ag Mission Fellowship has contributed several thousands of dollars for building equipment, plastic pipe, diesel generator, and helped purchase and ship hospital equipment, including a portable x-ray machine.

Funds for most of the construction costs have come from the Southern

Baptist World Hunger and Disaster Relief Fund, taken up each year as a special offering.

"I surrendered to Ag Missions in 1950 while attending Ridgecrest. I attended Southwestern Seminary for a year and half. The door was closed to mission appointment in 1960. God never forgot me nor left me hanging without a mission purpose for my life. Through Ag Missions and National Ag Mission Fellowship, God has given me the opportunity to work with missionaries all over the world; and in some way touch the lives of hundreds of thousands of lives that I would not have been able to otherwise," says Stafford. He also says, "The Lord has blessed each man who has gone on each mission trip. We have seen the students at the farm accept Christ as Lord and Savior; which is the highest and ultimate goal of all mission teams, whether overseas or at home."

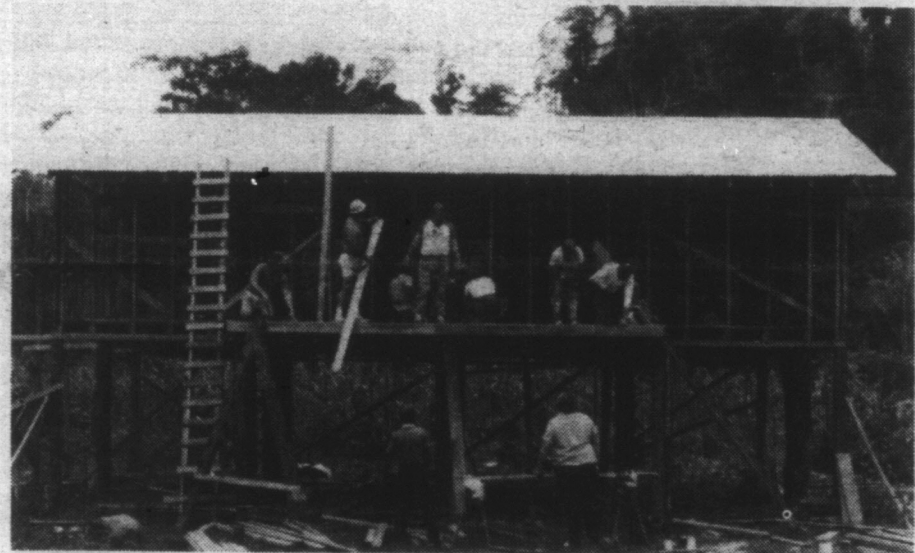
Located in the dining hall at the P.A.T. farm (placed there in January of 1987) is a plaque dedicated to Owen Cooper, and to Aubrey Dodson, who died last year of cancer and who gave of his time to participate in some 15 mission trips since February of 1980 — both overseas and at home.



A team of 12 men built a dormitory and finished work on the kitchen and dining hall.



The Pigfords from Mississippi will live in the house at right. The farm director's house is in the middle. The kitchen and dining hall building is at left.



Team builds 10 x 20 porch on front of a dorm in Belmopan, Belize.

## Poll says 90 percent of Americans believe in God or universal spirit

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. (EP) — About nine in 10 Americans adults believe in God or a universal spirit and three-quarters of all adults believe God has a plan for their lives even if they don't know what it is yet, according to a Gallup survey commissioned by the Christian Broadcasting Network.

The study showed that 94 percent of the people surveyed believe in God or a universal spirit. Most of those believe God is a personal God. Of those surveyed, 84 percent said "God is a heavenly Father who watches over us and can be reached by our prayers." About 74 percent of all American adults believe God has a plan for their lives. That figure rises to 87 percent among those who see God as a heavenly Father. More than two-thirds (69 percent) of all people in America believe that at some time

in their lives God has led or guided them in making a decision, according to the survey.

About three in 10 adults (31 percent) said they were born-again or evangelical Christians. The survey shows that there are significant numbers of evangelicals in many walks of life, but that those people are more likely to live in the South (44 percent) or Midwest (32 percent), and be black (42 percent) or Hispanic (38 percent). They are also more likely to have less than a high school education or to have earned a high school diploma (37 percent and 36 percent, respectively), to earn under \$25,000 a year (36 percent), to identify with the Republican Party (37 percent) and to be Protestant (44 percent). Persons identifying themselves as born-again Christians are least likely to be found among residents in the East or West (26 and 23 percent, respectively), col-

lege students or college graduates (26 percent and 23 percent, respectively), political independents (26 percent), and Catholics (14 percent).

More than one in three American adults (36 percent) say that God speaks to them directly. About four in 10 Americans believe that during the time of the Bible, God Himself spoke out loud to people. Almost that many thought that God spoke through other people. Approximately half of all respondents in the survey believe God speaks today through the Bible or Scriptures. About 48 percent believe God speaks through an internal feeling or impression, while nearly a quarter of those polled said God speaks through another person and 11 percent said God still speaks audibly.

The survey was drawn from 1,013 phone interviews with adults, and carries a margin of error of four percentage points in either direction.

## Playboy, Penthouse circulation declines

NEW YORK, N.Y. (EP) — Playboy and Penthouse magazines suffered severe single-copy sales declines for the half-year ending Dec. 31, according to Advertising Age. Playboy's newsstand sales dropped 42.2 percent to an average of 979,184 while total circulation dropped 16.2 percent to

3,447,324. Single-copy sales of Penthouse dropped by 26.6 percent to 2,140,098, while total circulation dropped 25 percent to 2,379,333. The drop in sales, particularly single-copy sales, reflects a growing reluctance by convenience stores to offer "adult" magazines for sale. 7-Eleven stores,

once targeted by anti-porn forces as the nation's leading distributor of "adult" publications, dropped Playboy and Penthouse after the Attorney General's Commission on Pornography heard testimony linking pornographic magazines to organized crime.

## ACTS Board formed in NYC

The work of Southern Baptist churches in the New York City area could be greatly strengthened as a result of formation of an ACTS board there according to Bill Nichols, director of affiliate relations for ACTS.

The board was formed as the result of a meeting between management of WLIG, a five million watt commercial television station, and representatives of the network, four sponsoring churches, and churches in the New York area, Nichols said.

The sponsoring churches will contribute both financial and production support for the station, and will be represented on the ACTS board, he added.

Sponsoring churches include Travis Avenue, Fort Worth, and First Church, Houston, both in Texas; North Phoenix Church, Phoenix, Arizona; and First Church, Columbia, S.C. Each church is represented on the ACTS board by its pastor, minister of media and one lay person.

Officers for the board are David Cortade, Fort Worth, chairman; John Bisagno, Houston, 1st vice chairman; Kevin McAfee, Columbia, 2nd vice

chairman; and Weldon Cole, New York secretary treasurer.

**Baptist Record**

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